

Fort Rameray Va February 1st 1863.

Miss Sarah Weston.

Your favorable letter of January the 16th reached me on the 27th and indeed I had great pleasure and Comfort in reading it.

I am always rejoice to read your letters; for they do contain such good news which I like to hear, and which makes me happy, easy, and content! — Nothing is better for a Soldier, as to receive letters from home; or when he is in the Battle, to gain the the Victory — At present we do not know anything about Victory; — while our time has not come yet for glory hallaluya as we go marching on. We are in a state at present not knowing the result of this

Have gone my love to Peter Margaretta & Mary —

Ms. A. 9. 2. 31. 40

great Revolution, if our Liberty will or can
extend her Roots, from the North, to and
through the South of this Country. We Soldiers
the true Servants of our Government, and the
true Patriots of Freedom, are ready any time
to go to Work with our War Instruments
to clear the Road before us, to open the Way
for the Glorious Liberty — Slavery is in
front of us which we got to fight, and to
Drive before us, like the Jew before the Can,
Liberty is in the rear of us, which will
follow us, like a Lamb the Mother.

It is Slavery alone we got to fight, and
the sooner we do it, the better it is for
us and the Country — I know we can
not carry on the War so prosperously now
in the Winter, as in the Summer, because
the Weather is in the South so changeable, that
we can't hardly undertake a great Movement
but the time comes soon again, when we
can, will and must so it. I suppose

We shall have to wait a Month yet, before we are able to leave our Winter Camps. —

But my dear Friend I assure you, as soon the time comes for Action, it will be eagerly & desperate — We can not play with them any longer, the way we have done — No we got to fight, to show them that we are in earnest, and that we are able to master them, all this must be done this coming Summer, — The Soldiers will loose their courage, a good many have now already; especially some Political's, which do not like to hear or see President Lincoln's Emancipation of Emancipation — but it does not make any difference yet — They are all Soldiers divided in different Regiments & Companies of whom are the Majority in favor of the Emancipation — or as I say they are Soldiers, which got to go with us in the Battles and of course got to fight for

2

We have now nine fighting Months before us; I should think that we can surely those Months bring this War to a close.

But if we fail in doing this; and that we do not succeed better than last year. Well then — Will it look bad enough? How is it when our nine Months men go home that little Detachment is only 30,000 Men, and then the two years Men of which New York alone got 38,000 Men, our Army will get very small then, compared with the Rebel Army, which we got to drive off.

— Will our Men re-enlist? I believe not, but the Government may succeed in getting some, by offering a great Bounty or Land.

I believe that is the only way, for they will forget the Patriotism to the Country and Liberty — They will be ready to give their home, but I get it is hard to get them back again, to stay in Dixie Land without seeing a cent for their duty in six Months or more in waiting of a

Have you my love for Peter Meares & Mary

Ms. A. 9. 2. 31. 40